

CBC NEWSLETTER

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BROWN REELECTED

Dr. Richard D. Brown of Charlotte, N.C. was elected to a second term as president of the Carolina Bird Club at its annual business meeting held May 14, 1982 at Cullowhee, N.C. Dick is an Assistant Professor of Biology at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and Executive Director of the Carolina Raptor Rehabilitation and Research Center.

Other officers elected were Vice-president/WNC: Ron Warner, Hendersonville, N.C.; Secretary: Philip J. Crutchfield, Fayetteville, N.C.; Treasurer: John Watson, McCain, N.C.; and Members-at-large/SC: Dennis Forsythe, Charleston, S.C. and Keith Bildstein, Rock Hill, S.C.



L to R seated: John Watson, Keith Bildstein, Ron Warner; standing: Philip Crutchfield, Dick Brown.

Spring Meeting Report

The meeting at Cullowhee, N.C. was a special treat for those who had not been on a college campus in recent years. Western Carolina University made dormitory and cafeteria facilities available to us in spite of the fact that it was graduation weekend. The presence of more than 100 bird-watchers seemed to be more of a shock to the students still on campus according to some late night comments heard on the sidewalk outside Scott Hall.

Dr. Dan Pittillo, Professor in the Department of Biology at WCU oriented the birders assembled Friday night to the natural history of western North Carolina through a beautifully presented slide show. Since his specialty is botany, he had to call on former WCU student and CBC member, Mike Tove, for a few bird shots to satisfy the hard core birders. Dr. Patillo led a wildflower/birding field trip on Saturday which got so carried away with exploring the areas he had presented that they failed to return to Cullowhee in time for dinner at the cafeteria.

Other field trips were ably led by Jerry Young, Ron Warner and Greg Massey. The long but

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Summer Scholarship

David Lee reports that he has received more than \$1,800 in contributions and pledges for the summer scholarship program jointly sponsored by the Carolina Bird Club and North Carolina State Museum of Natural History. Dave, Eloise Potter, Gilbert Grant, Mary K. Clark, Jim Parnell, Phil Crutchfield and Wayne Irvin saw a total of 186 species on May 14 in various parts of North Carolina from the Gulf Stream to Cullowhee. Letters are now being written to CBC members who pledged a certain amount toward the scholarship fund for each species seen.

Katharine Lundy, a N. C. State University student will be studying the geographical and ecological distribution of Empidonax flycatchers in North Carolina, and Elizabeth Hawfield, graduate student at Winthrop College in South Carolina, will be studying feeding stress in raptors as seen in feather growth. In addition, two Raleigh high school students, Danny Smith and Paul Kumhyr will begin a breeding bird survey in Granville County, N.C.

Birding the Texas Coast and Lower Rio Grande Valley

Bob and Dorothy Hader

In mid-April we set out on a sixteen day trip to Texas to visit our daughter and son-in-law in Dallas, and then to make a birding foray to the Lower Rio Grande Valley. It turned out to be a delightful trip. The birding was fantastic, the roadside flowers spectacularly beautiful; and we decided Texans really do have a lot to brag about.

We left Raleigh on April 12th and arrived in Dallas mid-afternoon of the 14th. We spent three days with our children and did some sight-seeing and shopping in "Big D". Early Monday morning we headed south to San Antonio and got our first real exposure to the birds and flowers. The highway right-of-way in this part of the state is carpeted with bluebonnets interspersed with patches of Indian Paintbrush for miles and miles. The best wildflower area in Texas is said to be the hill country west of Austin, but time did not permit our exploring this area. Also along this highway, and indeed everywhere we went, we saw hundreds of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, not a half-life bird, but a real treat nevertheless.

The next day (April 19) we visited Aransas Refuge. As expected, we were too late for the Whooping Cranes, but we did see a flock of White-faced Ibis, two White Pelicans, some very large alligators and a mean looking wild boar. Somehow we missed the Peccaries.

From Aransas we went back inland to Kingsville and visited the famous 800,000 acre King Ranch, driving a twelve mile one-lane loop road through the Santa Gertrudis section. At the gate one can buy a brochure and/or a cassette tape detailing the cattle and quarter-horse breeding programs and other ranch operations. Along this road we saw several hundred Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, a Caracara, Ground Doves, White-winged Doves, Golden-fronted Woodpeckers, Bronzed Cowbirds, Brewer's Blackbirds, a Lark Sparrow, an Olive Sparrow, plus many more familiar species. Just outside of the ranch we found a flock of Wild Turkeys.

From Kingsville we headed south to Harlingen. Along the way a beautiful White-tailed hawk flew across the road just in front of our car and then perched in a dead tree about a hundred yards away. A most spectacular sight was about 200 Wilson's Phalaropes in breeding plumage spinning and feeding on a small pool of water within the highway median.

Harlingen is the appropriate motel area for visits to Laguna Atascosa Refuge. Though primarily a wintering waterfowl refuge, it has many

of the South Texas specialties, among them Harris' Hawk, White-tailed Kite, Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Chachalacas, Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Golden-fronted and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, Pyrrhuloxia, Long-billed and Curve-billed Thrashers, Cassin's and Botteri's Sparrows and all of the migrating shorebirds in great numbers.

About 50 miles west of Harlingen we stopped two nights at McAllen, from which we visited Santa Ana Refuge and (briefly) Bentson State Park. Both are in the virgin tropical forest immediately along the bank of the Rio Grande River. Santa Ana is rightly said to be the gem of the federal wildlife system. In spring an early morning visit to Santa Ana is an unforgettable experience. The chorus of Long-tailed Grackles, Chachalacas and three or four species of doves is almost deafening. Chachalacas are accustomed to being fed and walk boldly out into the parking lot to greet visitors. In a matter of minutes they were joined by Lichtenstein's Oriole and a Green Jay. On the Refuge we found Least Grebes, Olivaceous Cormorants, White-faced Ibis, Black-bellied and Fulvous Whistling Ducks, Cinnamon Teal, White-tailed Kite, Swainson's Hawks, White-winged Dove, Ground Dove, White-fronted Dove, Tropical Kingbird and many others.

In the evening we visited Bentson State Park and happened to catch a migrating flock of 100 Mississippi Kites. Then at dusk we heard (and saw) Pauraque, Chuck-wills-Widow and a Lesser Nighthawk. The next day we drove west to Falcon Dam especially to try for the Green Kingfisher in the clearer water below the dam. Luck was with us and in addition we found a Black-headed Oriole, two White-necked Ravens, and Wied's Crested Flycatcher.

Our allotted time now running short, we headed back north, stopping near Houston to visit the LBJ Space Center and in Galveston to pick up the Inca Dove. A night in New Orleans and another in Atlanta, and we were safely back in Raleigh after 16 days and 4,500 miles on the road. A highly recommended trip if you get a chance to make it. Take with you Peterson's *Field Guide to the Birds of Texas*, Lane's *Birder's Guide to the Texas Coast*, and his *Guide to the Rio Grande Valley*. Peterson and Chalif's *Field Guide to Mexican Birds* could also prove useful. We lacked a wildflower field guide, but noted that one by Irwin and Wills, entitled *Roadside Flowers of Texas* is available from the University of Texas Press in Austin.

Meet Your Officers

Ron Warner, Vice-president, WNC, lives in Hendersonville, N.C. with his wife Debbie and his sons Jonathan 11 and Geoffrey 3. He is president of Eagle Rock Publishing as well as Treasurer and Assistant Headmaster of Blue Rock School, a private elementary school in Bat Cave, N.C. Ron is an officer of the Blue Ridge Bird Club in Asheville and a member of ABA, Mecklenburg Audubon Society, and San Diego Field Ornithologists.

Philip J. Crutchfield, Secretary, lives in Fayetteville, N.C. with his wife Dorothy and six children. He was born in New York City and grew up in northern New Jersey, but he pursued his higher education at Guilford College and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Phil is retired and currently working on a natural history of Cumberland County, N.C.

Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Project

The Moore County Wildlife and Conservation Club is continuing its efforts to keep the N. C. State University Red-cockaded Woodpecker Project alive. The study is being carried out by CBC member Jay Carter and his assistants under the direction of NCSU Professor Phillip Doerr. It began in 1978 with the objective of determining the Red-cockaded Woodpecker's range in North Carolina, the feeding areas for selected clans, and the reproductive success and population dynamics of selected populations. This has involved the banding of over 1,500 birds to date.

To obtain the best results, data should be gathered through 1984. However, governmental funding of this project ended in 1981. Discretionary funds and the contributions of conservation groups and concerning individuals kept the project going in 1982. This year \$10,000 is needed to fund the field work for the 1983 breeding season.

Keith Bildstein, Member-at-Large/S.C., is an Associate Professor of Biology at Winthrop College in Rock Hill, S.C. He received his B.S. degree from Muhlenberg College and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Ohio State University. Keith has published widely in professional journals and holds membership in numerous professional societies. He is a life member of the Wilson Ornithological Society and currently serves on the board of directors of the Carolina Raptor Rehabilitation and Research Center.

Dennis M. Forsythe, Member-at-Large/S.C., is Professor of Biology and Director, Vector Biology Research Program at The Citadel in Charleston, S.C. He received his B.S. degree from Ohio University, the M.S. degree from Utah State University and Ph.D. from Clemson University. Dennis has done research and published material in relation to the bird-aircraft collision problem. He is married and has two children.

Birding Hotspots

Ron Warner reported at the Spring meeting that he had received information on only one birding site for the proposed Bird Finding Guide to the Carolinas. If you would like to see this publication become a reality, send in your site information today on the form provided in the Spring Newsletter. Send them to Ron Warner, Eagle Rock Publishing, Rt. 1, Box 344, Hendersonville, N.C. 28739.

If you would like to have a part in research which may be important to the survival of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, send your tax deductible contribution to Save the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, 1220 East Indiana Ave., Southern Pines, N.C. 28387. Make checks payable to Moore County Wildlife and Conservation Club-RCW Project.

Membership Application and Order Form

Name _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

ENTER/RENEW

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Individual (\$9) | ☐ Family (\$10) |
| ☐ Student (\$5) | ☐ Patron (\$25) |
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SEND MATERIALS INDICATED

- | |
|--|
| ☐ CBC Cloth Arm patch \$1.50 (1), \$1.25 each in quantity |
| ☐ CBC Decals (water type) 75¢ (1) 50¢ each in quantity |
| ☐ Daily Checklists 10/\$1; 25/\$1.25; 50/\$2.50; 75/\$3.75
100/\$5.00 |
| ☐ Checklist of North Carolina Birds \$1.00 |
| ☐ CBC Membership List \$1.00 |
| ☐ Birds of the Carolinas \$13.45 plus \$1.25 for mailing |
| ☐ Amphibians and Reptiles of the Carolinas
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*Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club, Inc. and mail to
P.O. Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611*

Welcome New Members

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Katharine I. Lundy
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Mr. & Mrs. Carl E. Marlowe, Jr.
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Dr. Tom Simpson
Accomac, Va.

Danny Smith
Raleigh, N.C.

Bambi Teague & Dave Smith
Asheville, N.C.

University of Missouri
Columbia, Mo.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Who says that looking at birds in flight doesn't pay off? It did for CBC Executive Committee member **Dana Carter** who recently married Marine Staff Sargent Steve Newman, a helicopter crew chief.

Ned and Teddy Schuler are moving to Johns Island, S.C. where Ned will be athletic director at Sea Island Academy coaching football and basketball.

Newly elected Executive Committee member, **Keith Bildstein**, had his activities limited at the spring meeting by a broken collarbone suffered in a biking accident.

Dr. Robert J. Hader has retired from the Department of Statistics at North Carolina State University. His retirement gift was a 35mm camera with a 500mm lens which he is already using to take pictures of the birds he had only been able to count before.

CBC extends its sincere sympathy to Dr. **Thomas L. Quay** of Raleigh, N.C. in the death of his wife Violet W. Quay on May 29, 1983.

Spring Meeting Report

(Continued from front page)

satisfying day produced 101 species of birds and many beautiful wildflowers.

During the business meeting Saturday evening, President Dick Brown announced that the Executive Committee had adopted a resolution urging the adoption by the North Carolina General Assembly of a pending bill to provide for an income tax checkoff program for nongame and endangered species. He then introduced Jerry Young for a slide illustrated talk on "Birds of the Everglades." However, Jerry couldn't pass up the opportunity to show slides which he had taken of nesting birds in western North Carolina including the Solitary Vireo and Least Flycatcher. He had good reason to be proud of them.

Following the evening's activities a few hardy souls went out on a fruitless search for Saw-whet Owls. Fortunately, a Parkway ranger found them and pointed them back in the direction of WCU. This same group is discussing the organization of a snipe hunt at the fall meeting.



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Members are encouraged to submit items of interest to CBC Newsletter, Clyde Smith, Editor, 2615 Wells Ave., Raleigh, N.C. 27608.

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